**JASPER, AL**- Congressman Spencer Bachus joined others in speaking at a ceremony held this morning in Jasper, where Corridor X was officially dedicated as I-22. Since his election to Congress in 1992, Representative Bachus has worked tirelessly with numerous local, state, and federal officials to aid in the completion Corridor X.

When construction is finished, I-22 will provide a direct interstate highway link between Birmingham and Memphis.

"The dedication of signs officially naming Corridor X as I-22 is the culmination of years of hard work. The eventual completion of I-22 connecting Birmingham to Memphis will bring new economic development opportunities to our entire area - the positive impact on Alabama's economy cannot be overstated," said Congressman Bachus.

In 1998, Congressman Bachus, as Alabama's only member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, led the effort to move funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System (which includes Corridor X) from the Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee jurisdiction to the Highway Trust Fund. As a result of his efforts, Corridor X was funded for the first time out of gas tax revenues resulting in appropriations of \$40 million a year to advance the highway's completion.

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